

May 9, 1975

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Luedtke I will try and take care of that and I'm sure that Senator Burbach will also and if there is an objection we will take care of it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have a question of Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit, no let me take Senator Burbach. I have a question of Senator Burbach. Senator, usually when we collect all of these statistics we have some vital use for them and LB 203 does not spell out what this information is going to be used for and my question is that in your opinion as the introducer, what is the purpose of all of these statistics?

SENATOR BURBACH: Senator Kelly, I was going to get into that when I discussed the bill, but I will be very glad to answer your question at this time. There are many people vitally concerned about corporations, alien, or domesticated or foreign getting into the agricultural business to the detriment of the family farm. If you will recall there were three very similar bills introduced in this body. Further if you will recall after hearing the Attorney General's opinion in this instance, I changed the bill considerably at the public hearing. The agricultural committee after hearing the other two bills could not determine from those people who testified how serious of a threat that it was. To either affirm or deny those allegations that say that there are corporations that are getting into the agricultural business. That is not bonified Nebraskans and so forth. So the Agricultural Committee, determined, lets find out for once and for all how much of an in road that these corporations are getting into the agricultural field. That is the reason for the reporting form. So somewhere down the line the people of this state or this legislature can determine that there is a problem or that there is no problem. This is pure and simple way to determine that you either activate the legislation or to lay it to rest.

SENATOR KELLY: In that vein, what were doing is to gather some statistics, one of the most normal reasons for the establishment of a corporate structure of ownership is for raising of capital. I do not see in here anywhere where were going to be making statistics on the capital that the corporation has brought to that a land. Would there be any value in having this information also?

SENATOR BURBACH: All agricultural lands for whatever they are used will be, by statute, required to make a determination. I think that not the number of cattle will be there but the purpose that this land is used for. Had we had the committee saw fit to put out the anti-vertical integration and were not discussing that, they did not see fit and there a determination could have been made. I know that the pressures from for and against type of legislation that Senator Burrows and Senator Bereuter that my bill faced, that I think that we should determine now to the best of our ability, and if we don't have the proper answer next year we could include something as you are indicating at this time.